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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Cent

Director of Central Intelligence

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA

Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM

Director of Global Issues

SUBJECT

Proposed DCI Response to the Secretary of the Interior Regarding Continuation of the USGS World Energy Program (U)

- . 1. Action Requested. Your signature on the attached reply to Secretary Watt's letter to you of 3 March 1982 regarding continuation of the World Energy Program of the US Geological Survey. (U)
- 2. <u>Background</u>. On 12 January 1982, you wrote to the Secretary of the Interior urging him to provide funding to continue the USGS World Energy Program. That program has provided useful assistance—in the form of basic geologic analysis—to our assessments of Soviet and Chinese oil supplies. Interior, however, had tentatively decided not to provide funding for it beyond FY 1982. (U)
- 3. Secretary Watt's reply--which was drafted in USGS by the Director of the World Energy Program--raises three relevant issues:
 - O Watt acknowledges the value of the program to CIA and other agencies but suggests that outside funding may be needed to keep the program alive in FY 1983.
 - He suggests that research of genuine mutual interest to CIA and Interior will not require reimbursement, but that new initiatives that serve special interests other than those of his department will need "a cooperative budgetary policy."

C-117

SUBJECT: Proposed DCI Response to the Secretary of the Interior Regarding Continuation of the USGS World Energy Program (U)

- O He recommends that a more formal interagency mechanism be established to coordinate future World Energy Program activities. (U)
- 4. Staff Position. The Office of Global Issues has coordinated its proposed response with the DDI Planning and Management Staff. (U)
- Recommendation. Watt's response represents a substantial revision of his earlier position, which favored ending the World Energy Program. Parts of that program -- those dealing with Soviet energy--remain of great value to us. On the other hand, DDI does not have sufficient funds available in its projected budget for external analysis in FY 1983 to provide much help. (We might be able to contract of work to USGS; the World Energy Program needs \$1.5 million per year.) therefore recommend that CIA accept the spirit of Secretary Watt's offer to continue the program and agree to participate with other agencies on a coordinating committee. We also recommend, however, that the Agency avoid making any specific. financial commitments but agree to explore the matter. My Office will be glad to take the lead in following up on this last issue.

Attachment: As stated

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